

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 MCT-01 OMB-01 ICAE-00 TRSE-00 HA-05 IO-13
OPR-02 SY-05 /103 W
-----067450 100432Z /61

R 100240Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7754
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL
CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 03353

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PINS SHUM IR
SUBJ: RENEWED AND MORE COMPLEX VIOLENCE; HINT OF OFFICIAL
REACTION

REF: TEHRAN 3242, TEHRAN 3201

SUMMARY. THREE BOMBS PLANTED AT TEHRAN HOMES OF LEADING DISSIDENTS
EARLY APRIL 9. STUDENT RIOT IN ISFAHAN OF MAJOR PROPORTIONS.
RESURGENCE PARTY WING LEADER CALLS ON PARTY TO USE FORCE
AGAINST "SABOTEURS OF PUBLIC ORDER" IF NECESSARY. CIVIL
RESISTANCE CORPS MEMBERS PLEDGE READINESS TO STOP HOOLIGNAISM.
OPPOSITION ACTIVITIES CONTINUE, AND STAGE APPARENTLY BEING SET
FOR STRONGER GOVERNMENT ACTION. EMD SUMMARY.

1. FROM SEVERAL SOURCES EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT THREE BOMBS
WENT OFF NEAR HOME WALLS OF THREE PROMINENT DISSIDENT FIGURES
IN THE VERY EARLY HOURS OF APRIL 9. AMCIT EYEWITNESS SAW
BOMB DAMAGE FRONT WALL OF HOME OF KARIM SANJABI IN NIAVARAN.
OTHER SOURCES SAID BOMBS ALSO EXPLODED AT HOMES OF
ENG. MEHDI BAZARGANEH AND ENG. REZA MOQHADDAM, BOTH
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OLD-TIME DISSIDENT FIGURES WHO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH
VARIOUS FACTIONS OF UNION OF NATIONAL FRONT (UNF). NO
ONE WAS HURT, BUT DAMAGE WAS EVIDENT. AS USUAL, TWO
STORIES SERIOUSLY MAKING ROUNDS: MOST CREDIBLE (GIVEN
VICTIMS) WAS THAT PRO-GOVERNMENT GROUPS, EITHER FORMALLY
ORGANIZED OR NOT, PLANTED EXPLOSIVES TO WARN OPPOSITIONISTS
THAT RECENT VIOLENCE (REFTELS) HAD GONE ABOUT AS FAR AS

IT COULD WITHOUT SOME FORM OF RETALIATION. SECOND STORY SAYS EXPLOSIVES WERE WORK OF MORE EXTREMIST DISSIDENTS DISPLEASED WITH RELATIVELY MODERATE STANCE OF INDIVIDUALS TARGETTED. FIRST SEEMS MORE LIKELY TO US AT MOMENT, BUT THERE IS AS YET NO RPT NO HARD EVIDENCE EITHER WAY.

2. MORNING APRIL 9, SUBSTANTIAL STUDENT MARCH BEGAN AT UNIVERSITY OF ISFAHAN WITH UP TO 500 STUDENTS. CONSULATE ISFAHAN REPORTS ONE EYEWITNESS NEAR START OF MARCH HEARD YOUTHS SINGING AND GENERALLY CHEERFUL. GROUP, OR PART OF IT, LATER BROKE ALL WINDOWS AT PEPSI BOTTLING PLANT (BAHAI-OWNED) SEVERAL BLOCKS FURTHER DOWN MAIN STREET OF MARCH. POLICE EVENTUALLY FIRED IN AIR TO DISPERSE GROUP OF 40 OR 50 AT PLANT AND ARRESTED SEVERAL. CONSULATE ISFAHAN REPORTS SMALL GROUPS SCURRYING IN AND OUT OF KUCHES (SMALL STREETS) HAVE CONTINUED TO BREAK WINDOWS WELL INTO AFTERNOON. ALTHOUGH INCIDENTS TAKING PLACE AREA WHERE MANY AMERICANS LIVE, NO RPT NO AMERICANS HAVE BEEN REPORTED HURT AND VIOLENCE DOES NOT RPT NOT SEEM DIRECTED AT FOREIGNERS.

3. ABOVE TWO INCIDENTS OCCURRED JUST DAYS AFTER RESURGENCE PARTY PROGRESSIVE WING LEADER MAJIDI CALLED ON APRIL 6 FOR RESURGENCE PARTY "ACTION COMMITTEES" TO USE FORCE AGAINST SABOTEURS AND ACT IN COORDINATION WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO THWART RIOTS AND "IF NECESSARY, CONFIDENTIAL

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LAUNCH COUNTER STRIKES". GROUP IS EXPECTED TO REPORT ON INADEQUATE PERFORMANCE OF LAW OFFICIALS AS WELL AS UNJUST ACTIONS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS WHICH CAUSE DISCONTENT.

4. PERHAPS AS OMINOUS FROM HUMAN RIGHTS VIEWPOINT IS PARS NEWS AGENCY REPORT APRIL 9 THAT EMBERS OF THE CIVIL DEFENSE ORGANIZATION, THE CIVIL RESISTANCE CORPS, HAVE ANNOUNCED THEIR READINESS "TO STOP VIOLENCE AND SABOTAGE" PERPETRATED BY GROUPS OF "MASKED HOOLIGANS". COMMUNIQUE PUT OUT BY RESISTANCE CORPS SAID VIOLENT DEMONSTRATORS HAVE BEEN MISUSING FREEDOM. EXPERIENCED HANDS REMEMBER STREET MOBS OF MOSSADEQ'S TIMES AND MOB AND COUNTER-MOB ACTIVITIES OF 1962 NATIONAL FRONT RIOTS AND WONDER WHETHER STAGE IS BEING SET FOR NEW CONFRONTATION BETWEEN GOI AND OPPOSITION ALONG SAME OLD SHOPWORN LINES OF PREVIOUS ENCOUNTERS, WITH CIVIL RESISTANCE GROUPS AS GOI ACTION ARM.

5. EMBASSY WILL HAVE MORE COMMENT WHEN FACTS AND INTENTIONS ARE CLEARER, BUT WOULD OFFER TWO CAUTIONARY POINTS AT THIS STAGE: A) DESPITE INCREASING DEBATE ON DISSIDENT ACTIONS AND APPROPRIATE GOI RESPONSE, SECURITY

SITUATION REMAINS UNDER CONTROL, AND B) DESPITE NUMBER
AND RANGE OF INCIDENTS TO DATE, WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT
MAJOR DISSIDENT LEADERSHIP GROUPS--NATIONAL FRONTERS,
RELIGIOUS LEADERS, ETC.--ARE SEEKING FULL DRESS
CONFRONTATION WITH GOI.
SULLIVAN

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